

b) a nucleic acid encoding the polypeptide as in (a) wherein the polypeptide comprises from 1 to 216 amino acid residues deleted from the carboxy terminus; and

c) a nucleic acid which hybridizes under high stringency conditions with the nucleic acid set forth in (a) and (b) wherein the hybridizing nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide having the activity of inhibiting bone resorption.

63. (new) The method of Claim 62 wherein the nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide comprising residues 22-185, 22-189, 22-194, or 22-201 inclusive as shown in Figure 9C-9D (SEQ ID NO:124).

64. (new) The method of Claim 62 wherein the nucleic acid further comprises an Fc region of human IgG.

65. (new) The method of Claim 61 wherein the expression vector is a viral vector.

66. (new) The method of Claim 61 wherein the expression vector further comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant.

67. (new) The method of Claim 61 wherein the bone loss is due to osteoporosis.

68. (new) The method of Claim 61 wherein the bone loss is due to rheumatoid arthritis.

REMARKS

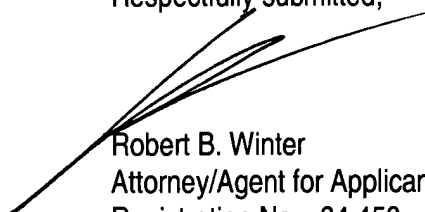
Applicants have canceled Claims 1-60 which are pending in the parent application, U.S. Serial No. 09/132,985 without prejudice and reserve the right to introduce claims relating to the subject matter therein in timely filed continuation applications.

Claims 61-68 have been added which are directed to treatment of bone loss by administering an expression vector comprising a nucleic acid encoding osteoprotegerin. It is believed that the claims do not introduce new matter or new issues requiring search. Entry of the new claims is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted that Claims 61-68 are in condition for allowance and an early notice thereof is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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